JFK Murder Plot F Post 3/2/67

New Orleans DA Makes 1st Arrest

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — The retired director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, Clay Shaw, was arrested by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison on Wednesday and accused of taking part "in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy."

No immediate charge was filed.

"There will be more arrests," the 6-foot-6 district attorney told newsmen. "I have no doubt about the case, as I have said before. The arrests will hold up. If you want to bet against me, you will lose."

Garrison said Shaw, 54, an Army major during World War II, had not made a statement. He said Shaw had been questioned previously. Garrison recommended bond of $25,000.

About two and a half hours after the arrest was announced, Shaw was brought out, handcuffed, and taken to central lockup. He smiled through the glare of camera lights. District attorney's men flanked him on both sides.

William Gurvich, chief investigator, said Shaw "will be charged with participating in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy" — but he couldn't say when the formal charge would be filed.

"Special cases take special handling," said Gurvich at a tumultuous news conference in the echoing marble corridor outside Garrison's offices. "For all I know it could be several days."

Shaw, a handsome, well-dressed six-footer with silver hair, was subpoenaed to appear at the district attorney's office. He arrived at 12:15 p.m. The arrest was announced at 5:45.

It was the first arrest in Garrison's five-month-old investigation, which he said will prove that a conspiracy born here "culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy" in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison's probe aroused international interest.

His claim of conspiracy goes counter to the Warren Commission's official report that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the bullets that killed Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John B. Connally — and that there was no credible evidence anyone else was involved.

The Warren Report contained no mention of Clay Shaw.

In announcing Garrison's latest move, Gurvich read a brief statement to newsmen:

"The first arrest has been made in the investigation of the New Orleans district attorney's office into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy," he said.

"It should be pointed out," he added, "that the nature of this case is not conducive to an immediate succession of arrests at this time. However, other ar-

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rests will be made at a later date."

Garrison said Shaw had a lawyer with him during the long afternoon of interrogation. He said Shaw would be booked on the authority of the district attorney.

Shaw was subpoenaed to appear at the district attorney's office Wednesday morning. On arrival, he walked quickly through the reception room, past newsmen, saying he was "not speaking" to anyone.

Shaw lives on Dauphine Street in the French Quarter, a lively tourist stamping ground here. For 18 years he was managing director of New Orleans' International Trade Mart.

The mart is a privately supported, nonprofit organization formed to promote trade through the port of New Orleans.

Shaw retired Oct. 1, 1965, saying that a new mart building erected at the foot of Canal Street, on the bank of the Mississippi River, was the fulfillment of his lifelong dream.

Retirement, he said, would give him time to pursue his personal interests and manage his real estate holdings.

At a ceremony marking his retirement, Shaw was presented a plaque and the medal of the International Order of Merit of the City of New Orleans.

During World War II he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the U.S. Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

Before returning to New Orleans in 1947, Shaw was briefly engaged in advertising and public relations work in New York City.

A native of Kentwood, La., he moved to New Orleans with his family at the age of 5.

Oswald, a former New Orleans resident, showed up on several occasions in front of the old mart building — now an office building — to hand out propaganda leaflets.

At the time, the summer of 1963, Oswald was working with a group called "Fair Play for Cuba," a pro-Castro organization.